

KENTUCKY IRISH AMERICAN.

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ST. PATRICK.

Legendary Travels of Apostle of Ireland Always Subject of Interest.

Found Irish by No Means Unenlightened Though Pagan in 432.

Easy to Trace the Works of the Saint From Authentic Sources.

HIS BIRTHPLACE STILL IN DISPUTE

As early as the ninth century the birthplace of St. Patrick was a subject of doubt and discussion, and it is still a debatable question. Claims have been put forward on behalf of France, Scotland, South Britain and Spain. Very learned and ingenious arguments have been advanced by distinguished writers in support of each. More has been written about St. Patrick than any other saint, and the legendary travels of the apostle of Ireland are always a subject of interest, as much in this year of our Lord, 1905, as they ever were before.

When our national apostle came to Ireland, about the year 432, he found the nation pagan, and after sixty years spent in preaching and disciplining the people in religion and morality he left them Christians. They remain so to this day. St. Patrick found the Irish by no means unenlightened. They had for that day and time attained a remarkable degree of culture. The laws of ancient Ireland, now being carefully studied by the learned, show a high degree of civilization. Their kings and chiefs had come into contact with Roman civilization and had made incursions into Scotland and England and even into Gaul.

Early Irish annals speak of the incursions of the Irish chiefs into Britain and Gaul, where it is fair to assume they gained a knowledge of Christianity. Some of the captives they brought home with them were most likely Christians. St. Prosper in his chronicle, written about 434, says that Palladius, the Roman deacon, was sent by Pope Celestine in 431 "to the Scots (Irish) believing in Christ." While the ancient Irish did not worship God, their form of paganism was not so dark as that of some other nations. They worshipped the sun, moon, the storm and the temple, instead of idols. The mission of Palladius among the Irish was not a success. It remained for St. Patrick to convert the nation. He had spent six years as a captive among the people and during these years learned their language, beside becoming acquainted with their habits, prejudices and customs. He had acquired his intellectual and religious training under St. Martin of Tours and others and was well equipped for the work before him. He had tact. He turned his knowledge of the people to the best of account and did not attempt at once to ruthlessly make war on the pagan customs he found. He rooted out what could not be reconciled with the spirit of Christianity, and absorbed that which could be engrafted in the new faith. Knowing that the people had great respect for authority he first went to the prince or chieftain in the district, knowing that if he secured him the clan was sure to follow.

Notwithstanding the lapse of time, the records of St. Patrick's labors are permanently fixed. It is almost universally agreed that he fixed his See at Armagh about the year 445, and previous to that time had spent about seven years in Connaught. He built a church and monastery at Assaroe, at the mouth of the Erne. He next passes into the Tir-Conaill and Tir-Eoghann. He visits Aileach, the fortress and castle of Niall. He blesses Eoghan and his two sons and their people. He preaches and founds churches as he goes along the northern portion of the island, the ancient territory named Cianschta. He passes across the Bann, blesses its waters and renders it abundant in fish, then into Dal-Riada and Dal-Aradia, the modern counties of Antrim and Down. He returns on his journey, having traversed these regions in all directions, and having made many converts as he went along. Next we find him passing along the north of Lough Neagh—again crossing the Bann at Toomebridge. He is now in the ancient territory known as Hy-Tulire, in Tir-Eoghann, along the western shore of Lough Neagh. He spent forty days in this locality, and we find that he built seven churches.

This district formerly known as Hy-Tulire lay between Slieve Gallion and Lough Neagh and is situated in the baronies of Loughlinsholin and Dunganon, and seems to correspond with the northern position of the diocese of Armagh. He applies to a chief of the district, Cairnthe Mor, for ground on which to build a church, but he is refused and is rudely repulsed by this chief, but he goes to a brother, Cairnthe Beg, by whom he was kindly received. St. Patrick blesses this chief and his wife and daughter, who afterward received the veil from him, and who gave her name to one of the seven churches founded in the district—the name is still preserved in the locality, Ardrea, the height of St. Treas.

By the aid of modern Irish authors and scholars it is possible to trace the

work of St. Patrick in the various parishes along the borders of Lough Neagh. Wherever we turn we find to this day traces of the saint's footsteps enshrined in the topography of the country. His name and labors are indelibly fixed and enshrined in the memory of the people.

FOR MAYOR

President Barth, of the Board of Aldermen, the Only Candidate.

Paul C. Barth, the present presiding officer in the Board of Aldermen, and ex-officio Mayor during the absence of the incumbent, is one of the best known citizens of Louisville.



PAUL C. BARTH.

He was born in this city and rose from a humble position in life to be the general manager of one of the greatest cement companies in the United States. Mr. Barth has served in the General Council for many years with great credit to himself and his constituents. When he announced several months ago that he would submit his name to the Democratic primary for Mayor many flocked to his support and at present he has no opposition.

SENATOR

Henry S. McNutt Will Be Candidate to Succeed Himself.

Senator Henry S. McNutt, who has served the people long and faithfully in the Legislature, needs no recommendation. He seeks the Democratic nomination in his district once more. The career



HENRY S. McNUTT.

of Senator McNutt in the Legislature speaks for itself. He has served his constituents faithfully and intelligently and will continue to do so should he be re-elected. The Senator has served on the most important committees in the upper house and always with a watchful eye for the best interests of Louisville and her people.

JAILER'S OFFICE

Has Been Capably Filled by John R. Pflanz For Four Years.

One of the most popular men in Louisville and Jefferson County is John R. Pflanz, the present Jailer. He has served in the General Council, as Sheriff and Jailer, and in all of these positions acquitted himself with credit to himself and his constituents. Mr. Pflanz is



JAILER JOHN PFLANZ.

eligible under the law for a second term as Jailer, and although he has not announced himself it is altogether likely that the Democratic party will nominate him and elect him. Mr. Pflanz is a great vote getter. He has frequently been mentioned in connection with the office of Mayor, but it is likely he will be compelled to stay in the new county jail for four years more.

ILLINOIS.

Early Settlers of This Great State Were Rugged Irishmen.

Chicago's First Postmaster, J. S. C. Hogan, Was Celt and Catholic.

Before and During Revolutionary Period They Braved Forest Dangers.

BUILT THE CANALS AND RAILROADS

The Kentucky Irish American has on previous occasions called attention to the part Irishmen took in the early development of Kentucky and Indiana. Excellent work in this direction is now being done every year by patriotic American citizens of Irish descent or birth in other States, notably in Illinois. John F. Finerty and William J. Onahan have accumulated much interesting matter about the early settlement of Illinois, which has been circulated through the Chicago Historical Society. Irish settlers were to be found in Illinois in the eighteenth century. Irish names are intermingled with French in the lists of the old parishes, as Kaskaskia, Prairie du Rocher, Cahokia and elsewhere before 1800.

The Irish, as is well known, formed no considerable part of the Continental military forces and many Irish soldiers were sent to the West during the war of the Revolution. Many of these Irishmen settled in Illinois. There then followed later Irishmen from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. In the latter State especially there were swarms of Irish settlers, as the history of the State will show, and the Irish rose to great prominence in the public service, in the Legislature and in Congress. The Irish element was, leaving out of sight the early French-Canadians, the first and far the most important contingent of the foreign nationalities in Illinois. These first comers were hardy and thrifty emigrants. They were not of the poorer class, because their coming out here in those early days, before railroads, implied the possession of means and grit.

There existed then no such prejudice and hostility to the foreigners as was aroused in later years. There was little or no anti-Irish spirit among the old settlers. That was a later noxious outbreak. The early Irish comers were scattered all over Illinois, and their presence can be traced from Galena to Cairo. Later on came the vast influx of Irish immigrants, who found employment building the Illinois and Michigan canal and the early railroads.

Old records show a large proportion of Irish names in the State during the last century. The old French town of Kaskaskia, the second oldest town in Illinois, once State capital, and hailed as the "commercial queen of the West," boasts on its rolls as heads of families, during the year 1783, the names of John McCormick, Thomas Hughes, James Kinkaid, Daniel Flannery, Thomas Flannery, Patrick Kennedy and Henry O'Hara.

An Irishman, J. S. C. Hogan, was the first Postmaster of Chicago. His name appears on a petition sent to the Bishop of St. Louis in 1833, asking that a resident priest be appointed in Chicago. The result was the appointment of Father St. Cyr, who became pastor of St. Mary's, the first Catholic church in Chicago.

A curious story is that which attributes the heavy settlement of the State by Irishmen to the building of the Illinois and Michigan canal. Irishmen in large numbers were attracted by the chances for employment. Most of the contractors were Irishmen; one of the chief engineers was a Michael Ryan, and records show that more than 300 Irishmen were employed on the work in 1840. During the hard times the laborers were paid in negotiable scrip, which they exchanged for land along the line of the canal, and thus formed the nucleus for what was afterward a large and prosperous farming community. From some of these early laborers and farmers are descended many of the prominent business and professional men of Illinois. During the pioneer days of the West, politically speaking, the years leading up to 1848, the Irish were a prominent factor in the affairs of the State. The celebrated Gen. James Shields was as well known and influential in State politics as his brilliant leader, Stephen A. Douglas, or even as his famous opponent, Abraham Lincoln. Others who were powers in early days were Richard Murphy, three times State Senator, and who was "Long John" Wentworth's opponent for Congress; Thomas Hoynes, the first City Clerk; John McGovern, father of Rev. James McGovern; Michael J. Lawler, of Shawneetown, Captain in a Mexican war; Richard Cady, of LaSalle, and Michael Crotty, of Seneca, who were large contractors on the Illinois and Michigan canal. Among the other prominent Irishmen of the earlier days throughout the State were Thomas Larokin, of Ottawa; William Kelly and John Donnelly, of Danville; William Byrne and John O'Halloran, of LaSalle; John O'Brien, of Bloomington, and Matthew Henneberry and Michael Bergen, of

Peoria. Judge Jeremiah Sullivan, the grandfather of William J. Onahan, was an eminent lawyer during the early days of Chicago.

THOMAS SHELLEY.

Popular Deputy Announced to Succeed Tax Receiver Brown.

Thomas Shelley, at present Chief Deputy under James B. Brown in the City Tax Receiver's office, aspires to be City



THOMAS SHELLEY.

Tax Receiver, a position which he formerly held after the death of his brother, the lamented James Shelley. "Tom" Shelley is one of the best known young Democrats in Louisville. He thoroughly understands the duties of the office by reason of long experience. Those who know him best are the most enthusiastic for him. If nominated he will add strength to the ticket in the opinion of his friends. No man could better administer the business of that important office.

COUNTY CLERK

William J. Semonin Has No Opposition For Re-Election.

One of the most popular officials in Jefferson county is William J. Semonin, the incumbent in the office of County



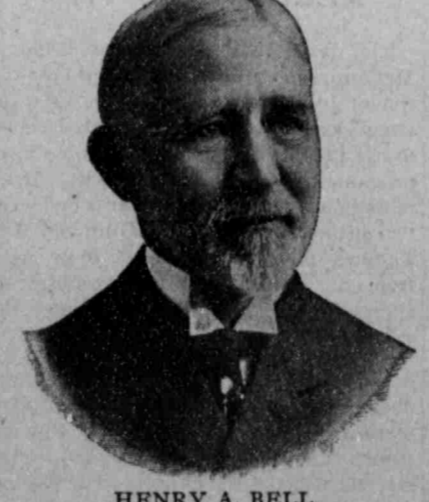
WILLIAM J. SEMONIN.

Clerk. Mr. Semonin has a record of being true to his friends and fair with his opponents. He is one of the strongest men in the county politically, and this is evidenced by the fact that he has no opposition for the re-nomination. In appointing his office force Mr. Semonin has been fair to all classes and has an excellent force of deputies. The party will make no mistake in placing him upon the ticket. Billy has a legion of friends and should poll an enormous vote. He has been a prominent and hard worker in the Democratic party for years.

HENRY BELL FOR SHERIFF.

A Wheel Horse in Democratic Party Aspires For Old Place.

Henry A. Bell is without doubt one of the most popular men in Jefferson county, personally and politically. He is at present



HENRY A. BELL.

the official Indexer of the Jefferson Circuit Court. Mr. Bell has heretofore served as Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff and is known to more people than any other man in the county. Every one has a good word to say of Henry Bell. Some politicians wear themselves out, but not so with Henry Bell. Whenever he announces for office more prominent politicians take his part than any other man in the county. Mr. Bell has concluded to make the race for Sheriff, subject to the action of the Democratic party. Should he be nominated he will add strength to the ticket. At present he has no opposition.

ANCIENT

Manuscripts Show That Learning Was Held in High Esteem by Irish.

Annals of Four Masters the Most Important Books Preserved.

English Government Has Done Little to Aid in Historic Work.

WHO THE FOUR MASTERS WERE

Learning of all kinds was held in great estimation by the ancient Irish, especially history, poetry and romantic tales. Most of their lore was written down in books, for after the time of St. Patrick everything that was considered worthy of being preserved was committed to writing so that many manuscripts accumulated throughout the country. A large proportion of these were destroyed, however, during the dark days of the Anglo-Norman invasion.

There is remaining, however, a great body of manuscript literature. The two most important collections are in Trinity College, Dublin, and in the Royal Irish Academy in the same city. There are also many important Irish manuscripts in the British Museum in London and in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. Some, too, are preserved in the continental libraries, brought there by Irish missionaries who frequented the continent in early ages.

During all time among all nations habituated to customs of refinement there have been historians appointed and salaried by the State whose express duty it was to transmit to posterity written records of remarkable events taking place during their term of office. The Irish people guarded for centuries the preservation of their historic records, even amid peril and disaster.

The most important of the Irish annals are the "Annals of the Four Masters," which begin at the earliest times and end at the year 1616. The names of the Four Masters were Michael O'Clery, Conary O'Clery, Cucogry O'Clery and Fearless O'Mulconry. Had the compilation of their annals been delayed a single generation they never could have been completed at all, for Fergall O'Gara, of Coolavin, in the County Sligo, paid and supported the Four Masters while they were writing their annals. He took part in the wretched Jacobite wars shortly after and lost his patrimony. He as well as the Four Masters deserves the thanks of posterity.

The Four Masters were diligent searchers after the truth and modern research has proved the truth of most of their statements. It is admitted that those parts of their annals relating to pagan Ireland are to some extent defective, for they omitted mentioning popular personages who flourished in ancient times simply because they were pagans. The Four Masters were profoundly pious and thought it wrong to glorify or even to mention the deeds of Pagans.

No praise could be given to the Four Masters greater than the praise that should be given to John O'Donovan, the translator, and it may be said the explanation of their annals. His translation of them, and his notes to elucidate them, form monuments of linguistic, historic and topographical knowledge that should make his memory as dear to his countrymen as the memory of the Four Masters themselves.

The annals of the Four Masters are from beginning to end in Irish. Six of the eight books out of which the Four Masters compiled their annals have been lost in the course of less than three centuries.

In the preface to the annals of the Four Masters, Michael O'Clery gives a catalogue of the manuscript books from which he and the others compiled their annals. The list comprises eight books, all of which, according to John O'Donovan, are now lost, with the exception of two, namely, the Annals of Clonmacnois and the Book of Seana MacMaghnuis, which O'Donovan says is the Annals of Ulster, and which, next to the Annals of the Four Masters, is considered the most important of Irish books of the kind.

In 1810 George III. issued a commission authorizing measures to be taken for the preservation and classification of the public records of Ireland for public use. The commission was mainly composed of persons who had no time to devote to the work and the records were allowed to molder and rot. These records are under the care of the clerks of the Four Courts, and though frequently bills have been introduced in Parliament to have them taken care of nothing practical has been done. These records are so numerous that it would be impossible to enumerate them here. The earliest records commence with the reign of King John and, with some interruptions, are brought down to the present time; suffice it to say that they contain, among other valuable records, the public and private statutes passed in the Irish Parliament commencing in the reign of Henry VI., as also the grants of land under the acts of settlement and explanation, and under the Commission of Grace, in the reigns of Charles II. and James II., and the grants from the Commissioners of Fortified Estates in the reigns of William III. and Anne.

Since the revival of the Gaelic move-

ment in Ireland plans have been set on foot to bring to light some of these ancient annals and the hope is entertained that something will yet be done to translate and place in proper shape these ancient manuscripts of which the Irish people may justly feel proud.

FOR COUNTY JUDGE

Attorney Charles A. Wilson Asks For Democratic Nomination.

Charles A. Wilson, as Councilman, President of the Board of Councilmen, member of the Board of Public Safety and attorney for the City Sinking Fund Commissioners, has made a record of



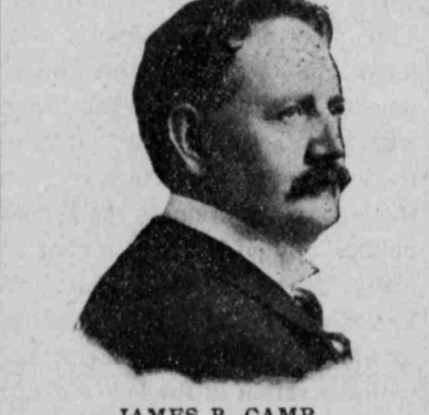
CHARLES A. WILSON.

which any young attorney might feel proud. On the announcement that Judge Gregory, the incumbent, would not be a candidate for re-election, Mr. Wilson was urged to become a candidate to succeed him. His friends rallied to his support and he now has a very strong political following. During the absence or illness of the regular Judge of the Police Court Mr. Wilson has presided as Judge during his absence, and he has been a terror to evil doers. If nominated and elected to the exalted office of County Judge Mr. Wilson will execute the law with the same impartiality that has characterized the present incumbent.

JAMES B. CAMP.

Popular City Treasurer Announces Candidacy For Tax Receiver.

James B. Camp is probably one of the best known politicians in Louisville. His name has often been mentioned in



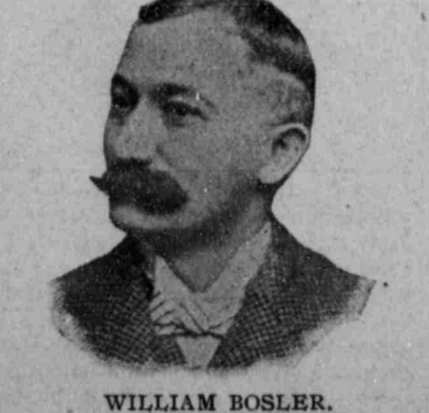
JAMES B. CAMP.

connection with the Mayoralty. Mr. Camp is now rounding out his term of four years as City Treasurer, which position he has filled with conspicuous ability. He has attended to his official duties in a manner entirely creditable to himself and party. He has been courteous, prompt and accurate. Mr. Camp is in every way qualified to fill the office of Tax Receiver, and should he be nominated and elected he will without doubt prove as efficient in that office as he has been in his present position.

POLICE COURT BAILIFF.

William Bosler Will Ask For His Renomination and Election.

"Billy" Bosler, as his friends like to call him, will seek re-election as Bailiff of the Police Court, and is a can-



WILLIAM BOSLER.

didate for the Democratic nomination to that office. Of all the popular officials who have served in the Police Court as Bailiff during twenty years past Mr. Bosler has the best record for prompt attention to duty. He is surrounded by capable deputies like Mike Tynan, William Collins and others, who will remain with him in case he is re-elected. So far Mr. Bosler has no opposition. His record, it seems, entitles him to another term.

IRISHMEN

Took a Prominent Part in the Early Development of Kentucky.

For One Hundred and Fourteen Years They Have Not Failed in Duty.

The First Families in the State Are of Irish Blood and Descent.

SOME HISTORIC REMINISCENCES

Kentucky was a part of Virginia until February 4, 1791, when it was admitted into the Union. Irishmen began arriving in Virginia in 1608, according to reputable historic authority. Francis Maguire, an Irishman and a Catholic, visited the colony in that year and wrote an account of his trip. In 1609 the population of Virginia and Kentucky was only about 100 persons and in 1622 it had increased to 1,240. The immigration to Virginia even at that early date was about equally divided between Irish and English. There were few, if any, Scotch. The earliest settlers of Kentucky, which was called in those days Fincastle county, were Irishmen.

St. Patrick's day is one of the occasions when we are in duty bound to recall the important part Irishmen took in the early development of Kentucky. From 1791 to 1905, a period of 114 years, men of Irish blood have done their part in upholding the honor of this Commonwealth, the first State to be admitted into the Union.

It was an Irishman, William Preston, born in the County Donegal in 1729, who was first sent by the State of Virginia to make a survey of Kentucky. He was a distinguished soldier in the Revolutionary war. His kinsman, William Preston, afterward represented the Louisville district in Congress. Since William Preston first came to Kentucky to make the survey it is difficult to estimate the number of Irishmen who have settled in the State, but their descendants are much more numerous than one would suppose them to be. Large numbers of people left Ireland for America between 1790 and 1812. The failure of Robert Emmet's effort in 1803 for the freedom of his native land also led to the flight of thousands across the Atlantic. The Presbyterians of the North of Ireland, who had been excluded from power and position by the "sacramental test act," had emigrated to America during the early part of the eighteenth century. In Ireland Presbyterianism was socially, though not religiously, outlawed almost to the extent of Catholicism. Many of these Presbyterians settled in the Dark and Bloody Ground. John Breckinridge, born in Virginia in 1760, was the son of an Irish Presbyterian. In Ireland the name was spelled "Breckinridge." The family has been prominent in Kentucky for 100 years and is prominent today, but how few know that this family, which furnished the United States the youngest and most eloquent Vice President it ever had, came from Ireland. It is so with many of the other prominent Kentucky founders.

Probably the first St. Patrick's day observance in Kentucky was held by Hugh Shannon and Patrick Jordan, who came to the spot where Lexington now stands in 1775. They named the town in honor of the battle of Lexington, having heard of the revolution. The Kentucky Irish American in previous articles on St. Patrick's day has called attention to the prominent part Irishmen took in the settlement of Louisville in 1780 and subsequent years and it is needless to refer to them here.

The Irish today are represented in almost every line of mercantile pursuits in Louisville and Kentucky, but not to the extent or proportion they are entitled to on account of their long residence. In business they have been fairly successful. They are lacking, however, in a sufficient representation in banking, brokerage, fire and life insurance and great financial undertakings. The history of Irish progress at the bar and in the pulpit indicates clearly that we are not lacking in the elements necessary for success in these lines in which we have not participated. Prejudice, lack of wealth and in part want of direction has been the cause of this. After all it may be for the better that the so-called practical things were not looked after. "Where wealth accumulates men decay," says the poet. This is a brazen age, where the golden calf is set up to be worshipped and the man with his eyes on the stars is flouted. The Irish generally set soul and conscience and heart above the gold that rusts. The Irish are dreamers, it has been said, but in reply John Boyle O'Reilly has written:

"For the dreamer lives forever, And the toiler dies in a day." St. Patrick's day comes with the springtime when the rage of winter is broken and man and nature are turning with hope and joy to the resurrection and revival of the world. It is the season of the shamrock and the primrose. Pride of race and love of nationality are in the blood of the Celt. The roots of the race stretch back to the dawn of history. In Kentucky we of Irish blood can point with pride to the deeds of the Irish pioneers who blazed the way for civilization. The day of good St. Patrick comes around to nerve and inspire us to renewed efforts to make the old Commonwealth more pleasant for ourselves and our children.